



GO GREEN! BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

MSU Credit Union Boasts LEED Certification

Michigan State University Federal Credit Union is applying the 'go green' mentality to more than just its tagline.

In mid-January, MSUFCU received a gold-level rating through the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, also known as LEED certification. The gold-level rating is the second highest possible issued through the certification program.

The towering MSUFCU headquarters located off U.S. 127 boasts an impressive eco-friendly roof, high-efficiency glass, drought-resistant landscaping and a high-tech air filtration system. Along with many other energy-saving facility structures and functions, MSUFCU is also saving approximately \$42,750 in annual electric and natural gas expenses.



Does Your Business Have Any Resolutions?

This year, take the initiative to go (and save) green!

- 1) **Be bright about light!** Artificial lighting accounts for 44% of electricity use in office buildings. Whenever possible, flip the switch off!
- 2) **Maximize computer efficiency!** Computers in the business sector waste \$1 billion worth of unnecessary electricity annually. Put your computer on 'sleep' mode or turn it off when not in use!
- 3) **Print smart!** Every year, the average office worker goes through 10,000 sheets of copy paper. Remember to use both sides whenever possible or use sustainable methods of communicating (such as e-mail) instead of hard copies!
- 4) **Minimize your waste!** Try to recycle everything your company uses, such as paper, plastics, glass and even old electronics!
- 5) **Savor your H2O!** By installing low-flow faucets in your company's bathrooms or kitchens, you'll not only be conserving water, but lowering your expenses as well!

Quote of the Month

"There's so much pollution in the air now that if it weren't for our lungs, there'd be no place to put it all." ~Robert Orben

February 2010



Be Smart About Your Ink Cartridge Disposal

Ink cartridges are made of plastic, petroleum-based products and take approximately 1,000 years to decompose!

According to recent estimates, only 20-40% of ink cartridges are recycled (which means 60-80% end up in landfills). The recovery and reuse of empty printer cartridges diverts millions of cubic feet of material from waste disposal. It even saves us millions of tax dollars needed to pay for additional landfill management! Check out local areas where you can dispose of your ink cartridges responsibly: http://local.computeruser.com/Recycling_Used_Ink_Cartridges_East_Lansing_MI-r1300275-East_Lansing_MI.html

Did You Know?

Americans use 50 million tons of paper annually -- consuming more than 850 million trees.





BUSINESS PROFILE: *Mission Green*

Mission Green was founded in an effort to provide low cost recycling for Lansing businesses and offer information to assist businesses in starting and maintaining an efficient recycling program. The company offers complete set-up and pick-up for all recycling needs.

Owner Angela Voss created *Mission Green* after noticing the need to reuse in an office building where she worked. Voss champions using all sources to their fullest extent by writing on the backsides of paper, refilling water bottles, using old boxes for shipping needs, and donating unwanted items. Contact *Mission Green* @ (517) 214-6605.

Why YOUR BUSINESS should recycle plastic bottles!

- 1) Every year, Americans purchase approximately **29.8 billion plastic water bottles!**
- 2) Nearly 80% of those bottles will end up in a landfill!
- 3) Recycling a single plastic bottle can conserve enough energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for *six hours!*
- 4) Recycled plastic bottles can be made into products such as clothing, detergent bottles, lumber for outdoor decking and even carpeting!
- 5) Estimates show that energy used for the production of plastics accounts for about 4% of total energy consumption in the United States!



Has Your Business Gone Green? Get Recognized!



The Tri-County Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) is currently seeking applications from businesses, educational institutions, non-profits, residents and governments who have shown leadership in implementing and promoting waste reduction practices.

Former East Lansing Mayor Sam Singh will be the featured guest speaker at a special Earth Day ceremony and luncheon on April 7, 2010. All applicants will be recognized and awards will be given to those with the most outstanding programs and accomplishments.

The application deadline is February 26, 2010. If you're interested in obtaining an application, please contact the Go Green! Office at (517)-483-4597.